— These work only under ideal conditions like Airconditioning etc.

— Auto-rickshaw owners are poor persons and can not afford it.

— Its components are not easily available.

— Insurance companies will charge more because electronic meter is a luxury item.

— Replacement of electronic meters will be heavy if stolen or damaged.

Revised Rates of Autorickshaw and Taxi Fares

5326. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fares of autorickshaws and taxis have been revised recently;

(b) if so, the details of the revised fare structure;

(c) whether the Government propose to get the revised fares calibrated in the fare meters of these vehicles; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The fares of autorickshaw and taxis have been revised with effect from 26.7.91. The details are as under:—

(i)	*Autorickshaws*	
	Initial fare for Ist Kilometre	Rs. 3.50
	Subsequent fare per kilometre	Rs. 1.80
(ii)	*Taxis*	
	Initial fare for Ist kilometre	Rs. 5.80
	Subsequent fare per kilometre	Rs. 3.60

(c) and (d). The calibration of fare table is a time consuming process as it is to be done by changes in the meters. In the meantime drivers of the autorickshaws and taxis have been provided with conversion tables from old fares to new fares.

Promotions under Flexible complementing Scheme

5327. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer state to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 710 on July 26, 1991 and:

(a) the list of the departments in which the flexible complementing scheme has been introduced for promotions;

(b) the categories of employees covered under the scheme; and

(c) the manner in which the scheme helps in quick promotions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a). No such information is centrally maintained.

(b) The scheme is basically applicable to Scientists and Technologists of Scientific Departments/Organisations engaged in Scientific research-both basic and applied.

(c) On completion of the prescribed residency period in a grade, the Scientists/ Technologists are assessed for promotion by a duly constituted Selection Board on the basis of proven merit, research work done and other allied factors. The scheme helps in quicker promotions because promotions are not vacancy based.

Import of Quality Products As Scrap

5328. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the item captioned 'Bid for IT recovery from fictitious scrap dealers' appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated August 1, 1991 wherein it has been stated that steel worth crores of rupees has been imported into the country in the form of scrap etc;

(b) if so, the number of cases which have come to the notice during the last one year where big firms imported quality products in the form of scraps and deprived the Government of legitimate revenues;

(c) whether any instances have come to the notice of the Government wherein concerned officials were found involved in such rackets;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to completely plug the loopholes which help in such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Unresolved Points In Uruguay Round of Trade and Tariff Negotiations

5329. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main points of difference between the developed and the developing countries that have remained unresolved during the Uruguay Round of trade and tariff negotiations;

(b) the stand of the two sides on each point; and

(c) the efforts made by the Group of 77 to bridge the differences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). As the Uruguay Round has not yet been concluded, most of the important issues under negotiation still remain open and unresolved. In multilateral trade negotiations, each country pursues its own economic interests and differences of views on the issues being negotiated do not always follow the North-South divide. Some coalitions do develop among countries seeking enhancement of market access in the same group of products, viz. agricultural products, tropical products, natural resource-based products, and textiles and clothing. The Group of 77, which operates in the UN fora, does not have any status in the Gatt. Although there is an informal group of developing countries in GATT which sometimes makes joint statements, smaller groups of developing countries have divergent negotiating objectives and attach varying degrees of importance to negotiations in different areas. In agriculture, while the major participants are divided on the extent of reforms,